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Agenda item 66 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Rights of indigenous peoples

Note by the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to the President of the General Assembly dated 8 July 2016 from the advisers participating in the consultations concerning ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them in which they present the compilation of views gathered and elements for further discussion (see annex).

I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the advisers from Member States, Kai Sauer, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, and Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations, and to the two advisers of indigenous peoples, Claire Winfield Ngamihi Charters, from the Pacific region, and James Anaya, from the North America region, for their leadership and extraordinary ability in conducting these complex consultations.

I also express my appreciation to the Member States, indigenous peoples and the three relevant mechanisms on the rights of indigenous peoples for their constructive engagement and support. I would like to encourage the General Assembly to maintain the same level of commitment during its seventy-first session.

(*Signed*) Mogens **Lykketoft**

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Annex

With reference to your letters dated 18 and 25 February, 9 March, 27 April, 16 and 27 May and 27 June 2016 with respect to the consultation process associated with indigenous peoples' participation in the United Nations, we are pleased to present the compilation of views on possible measures necessary to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in relevant United Nations meetings on issues affecting them, and of good practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation, to form the basis for a draft text to be finalized and adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, along with potential elements for future discussion during the seventy-first session.[a] The consultations during the seventieth session of the Assembly have been well attended by representatives of both indigenous peoples and Member States, and the dialogue has brought all closer to agreeing on possible ways forward. We encourage the active participation of Member States and indigenous peoples as the process continues during the seventy-first session.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/232, stated its intention to finalize and adopt the text during the seventy-first session, so the process will continue after the finalization of the compilation during the current session.

Our recommendation would be not to lose the momentum that the consultation process has brought to the issue. For instance, a launch briefing on the next steps could be held at the beginning of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, and the process could continue with discussions immediately following the finalization of the work of the Third Committee, at the beginning of December.

It is important to ensure that indigenous peoples will still be able to contribute their views during the seventy-first session, both in New York and at the national level.

We encourage Member States to also consult at the national level with indigenous peoples before and during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly in order to be prepared for the discussions. The recommendation to start the discussions only after the Third Committee has finished its work, instead of as soon as possible, is in response to requests to allow more time for national consultations and in consideration of smaller delegations, which may find it difficult to devote time to this issue during the Third Committee's deliberations.

We wish to thank you for your continued support and trust during this important process. Without it, it would not have been possible to move forward. A positive solution can be found only in discussions with Member States and indigenous peoples, and we appreciate all your efforts in realizing these consultations.

(*Signed*) Kai **Sauer**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Martha Ama Akyaa **Pobee**
Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Claire **Charters**

(*Signed*) James **Anaya**

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[a] Circulated under the symbol A/70/990, annexes I and II. The compilation, along with background information, can also be found at www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/participation-of-indigenous-peoples-at-the-united-nations.html.